

America Next to You

Discovering USA

NO. 2

NOVEMBER 2007

NOVEMBER EVENTS:

- Thanksgiving Day
- National Native American Heritage Month
- Veterans Day
- American Education Week

EVENTS IN CLUJ-NAPOCA

- Sugar Blue & Band Concert

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National Native American Heritage Month

There were a lot of historical attempts to establish a special day to honor the Native Americans.

The first step toward a celebration dedicated to American Indians is recorded at the beginning of the 20th century. Dr. Arthur C. Parker, a Seneca Indian, the director of the Museum of Arts and Science in Rochester, was one of the first proponents of an American Indian Day. The Boy Scouts of America adopted for three years a day for the "First Americans", persuaded by Dr.

Arthur C. Parker. The annual Congress of the American Indian Association approved in 1915 a plan regarding an American Indian Day. Its president, Rev. Sherman Coolidge, an Arapahoe, issued on September 28, 1915, a proclamation which declared the second Saturday of each May as an American Indian Day. The

proclamation contained the first formal appeal for recognition of Indians as citizens.

Red Fox James, a Blackfoot Indian, rode horseback from state

lumbus Day is also the Native American Day in several states.

Jerry Elliot (High Eagle Cherokee/Osage Tribe) authored congressional legislation that declared the week of October 10-16, 1976, as Native American Awareness Week; the legislation was signed by President Gerald R. Ford.

On August 3, 1990, a Joint Resolution designating the month of November 1990 as "National American Indian Heritage Month" was approved by President George H. W. Bush, becoming Public Law 101-343 (104 Stat. 391).



to state in 1914 seeking approval for a day to honor Indians, so that on December 14, 1915, he was able to present at the White House 24 state governments' endorsements.

The first American Indian Day was declared by the governor of New York on the second Saturday in May 1916. Presently, Co-

Bibliography:

1. www.nativeamericans.com
2. www.doi.gov/bia/na-month.pdf (site of the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs)

Thanksgiving Day

Celebrated at home with a substantial feast, Thanksgiving is probably the premier U.S. family celebration, by which the Americans express their gratitude for general abundance. The traditional event reunite families and open the "holiday season" that continues through Christmas and New Year's Day. Symbols of the first Thanksgiving - turkey, corn (that especially represent the survival of the Pilgrim colonies),

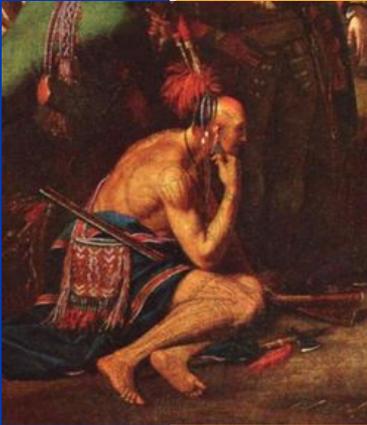
pumpkins, cranberry sauce - are served at a traditional Thanksgiving meal and are depicted on holiday decorations and greeting cards.

The Pilgrims crossed in 1620 the Atlantic Ocean for freely practicing their form of Puritanism, separating themselves from the official Church of England. In Plymouth Colony, during the winter of 1620-1621, they suffered from lack of fresh food and half of the
(continued on page 2)



Squanto, Native American guide and interpreter for European settlers (Source: www.nativeamericans.com)

Native American Proverbs



Section from Benjamin West's "The Death of General Wolfe", illustrating an American Indian
Source:
Wikipedia

- "Treat the earth well: it was not given to you by your parents, it was loaned to you by your children. We do not inherit the Earth from our ancestors; we borrow it from our children". (tribe unknown)
- "What is life? It is the flash of a firefly in the night. It is the breath of a buffalo in the wintertime. It is the little shadow which runs across the grass and loses itself in the sunset". (Crowfoot, Blackfoot warrior and orator)
- "If we wonder often, the gift of knowledge will come". (Arapaho)
- "Wisdom come only when you stop looking for it and start living the life the Creator intended for you". (Hopi)
- "Cherish youth, but trust old age". (Pueblo)
- "A danger foreseen is half-avoided". (Cheyenne)
- "Don't be afraid to cry. It will free your mind from sorrowful thoughts". (Hopi)
- "Even a small mouse has anger". (tribe unknown)
- "The Great Spirit gave you two ears and one mouth, so you can talk half as much as you listen". (tribe unknown)
- "Those that lies down with dogs, get up with fleas". (Blackfoot)
- "One rain does not make a crop". (Creole)
- "When a man moves away from nature, his heart becomes hard". (Lakota)
- "Lose your temper and you lose a friend; lie and you lose yourself". (Hopi)
- "It does not require many words to speak the truth". (Chief Joseph Nez Percé)
- "Tell me, and I'll forget. Show me, and I may not remember. Involve me, and I'll understand". (tribe unknown)
- "Each bird loves to hear himself sing". (Arapaho)
- "Listening to a liar is like drinking warm water". (tribe unknown)
- "Trouble no one about their religion; respect others in their view, and demand that they respect yours". (Chief Tecumseh - Shawnee)
- "Those who have one foot in the canoe, and one foot in the boat, are going to fall into the river". (Tuscarora)
- "Certain things catch your eye, but pursue only those that capture your heart". (tribe unknown)
- "Only when the last tree has withered, the last fish has been caught, and the last river has been poisoned, will you realize that you cannot eat money". (Cree)
- "We will be known forever by the tracks we leave". (Dakota)
- "O, Great Spirit, help me always to speak the truth quietly, to listen with an open mind when others speak, and to remember the peace that may be found in silence". (Cherokee)

(Source: Wikiquote)

Thanksgiving Day

(continued from page 1)

colony died from disease. In the following spring, local Wampanoag Indians taught the colonists how to grow corn and unfamiliar crops, and how to master hunting and fishing, so that in the fall of 1621 the Pilgrims celebrated their first successful harvest. The Wampanoag Indians, Pilgrims benefactors, were invited to enjoy it, the event marking the first American Thanksgiving holiday.

President George Washington proclaimed a national Thanksgiving holiday in 1789, to celebrate the ratification of the United States Constitution. In 1863, the President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed the last Thursday in November an annual national Thanksgiving. Every American president has made since then an official

Thanksgiving proclamation on behalf of the nation.

In 1988, at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City took place a special Thanksgiving ceremony, that thanks the Indians for sharing their knowledge and skill so that the Pilgrims have survived, acknowledging publicly the role of the Native Americans in the first American Thanksgiving.



the first

The First Thanksgiving (painting by Jean Leon Gerome Ferris, 1863-1930)

Bibliography:

1. <http://usinfo.state.gov> (site of U.S. Department of State)
2. www.wikipedia.com

“Iktomi’s Blanket” - An Old Indian Legend

Alone within his teepee sat Iktomi*.

The sun was but a handsbreadth from the western edge of land. "Those bad, bad gray wolves! They ate up all my nice fat ducks!" muttered he, rocking his body to and fro. He was cuddling the evil memory he bore those hungry wolves. At last he ceased to sway his body backward and forward, but sat still and stiff as a stone image.

"Oh! I'll go to Inyan, the great-grandfather, and pray for food!" he exclaimed. At once he hurried forth from his teepee and, with his blanket over one shoulder, drew nigh to a huge rock on a hillside. With half-crouching, half-running strides, he fell upon Inyan with outspread hands. "Grandfather! pity me. I am hungry. I am starving. Give me food. Great-grandfather, give me meat to eat!" he cried. All the while he stroked and caressed the face of the great stone god. The all-powerful Great Spirit, who makes the trees and grass, can hear the voice of those who pray in many varied ways. The hearing of Inyan, the large hard stone, was the one most sought after. He was the great-grandfather, for he had sat upon the hillside many, many seasons. He had seen the prairie put on a snow-white blanket and then change it for a bright green robe more than a thousand times. Still unaffected by the myriad moons he rested on the everlasting hill, listening to the prayers of Indian warriors. Before the finding of the magic arrow he had sat there. Now, as Iktomi prayed and wept before the great-grandfather, the sky in the west was red like a glowing face. The sunset poured a soft mellow light upon the huge gray stone and the solitary figure beside it. It was the smile of the Great Spirit upon the grandfather and the wayward child. The prayer was heard. Iktomi knew it. "Now, grandfather, accept my offering; 'tis all I have", said Iktomi as he spread his half-worn blanket upon Inyan's cold shoulders. Then Iktomi, happy with the smile of the sunset sky, followed a footpath leading toward a thicketed ravine. He had not gone many paces into the shrubbery when before him lay a freshly wounded deer!

"This is the answer from the red western sky!" cried Iktomi with hands uplifted. Slipping a long thin blade from out his belt, he cut large chunks of choice meat. Sharpening some willow sticks, he planted them around a woodpile he had ready to kindle. On these stakes he meant to roast the venison.

While he was rubbing briskly two long sticks to start a fire, the sun in the west fell out of the sky below the edge of land. Twilight was over all. Iktomi felt the cold night air upon his bare neck and shoulders. "Ough!" he shivered as he wiped his knife on the grass. Tucking it in a beaded case hanging from his belt, Iktomi stood erect, looking about. He shivered again.



A dream catcher (Source: Wikipedia)

"Ough! Ah! I am cold. I wish I had my blanket!" whispered he, hovering over the pile of dry sticks and the sharp stakes round about it. Suddenly he paused and dropped his hands at his sides.

"The old great-grandfather does not feel the cold as I do. He does not need my old blanket as I do. I wish I had not given it to him. Oh! I think I'll run up there and take it back!" said he, pointing his long chin toward the large gray stone. Iktomi, in the warm sunshine, had no need of his blanket, and it had been very easy to part with a thing which he could not miss. But the chilly night wind quite froze his ardent thank-offering. Thus running up the hillside, his teeth chattering all the way, he drew near to Inyan, the sacred symbol. Seizing one corner of the half-worn blanket, Iktomi pulled it off with a jerk. "Give my blanket back, old grandfather! You do not need it. I do!"

This was very wrong, yet Iktomi did it, for his wit was not wisdom. Drawing the blanket tight over his shoulders, he descended the hill with hurrying feet. He was soon upon the edge of the ravine. A young moon, like a bright bent bow, climbed up from the southwest horizon a little way into the sky. In this pale light Iktomi stood motionless as a ghost amid the thicket. His woodpile was not yet

kindled. His pointed stakes were still bare as he had left them. But where was the deer - the venison he had felt warm in his hands a moment ago? It was gone. Only the dry rib bones lay on the ground like giant fingers from an open grave. Iktomi was troubled. At length, stooping over the white dried bones, he took hold of one and shook it. The bones, loose in their sockets, rattled together at his touch. Iktomi let go his hold. He sprang back amazed. And though he wore a blanket his teeth chattered more than ever.

Then his blunted sense will surprise you, little reader; for instead of being grieved that he had taken back his blanket, he cried aloud, "Hin-hin-hin! If only I had eaten the venison before going for my blanket!"

Those tears no longer moved the hand of the Generous Giver. They were selfish tears. The Great Spirit does not heed them ever.

Source:

The Project Gutenberg Etext of Old Indian Legends, by Zitkala-Sa
([ftp://ibiblio.org/pub/docs/books/gutenberg/etext95/ind10.txt](http://ibiblio.org/pub/docs/books/gutenberg/etext95/ind10.txt))

* In Lakota mythology, Iktomi is a spider-trickster spirit teacher of wisdom, and a culture-hero for the Lakota people. Iktomi has alternate names: Ikto, Ictinike, Inktomi, Unktome, and Unktomi, due to the differences in tribal languages, as this spider deity was known throughout many of North America's tribes. Iktomi give the dream catcher to the Indian people who use it above their beds as the web of their life: the good of their dreams are captured and stay with them and the evil goes through the hole in the center.

(Source: Wikipedia)

Veterans Day

"To us in America, the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country's service and with gratitude for the victory, both because of the thing from which it has freed us and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nations..."

(President Woodrow Wilson proclaiming November 11, 1919, the first Armistice Day)

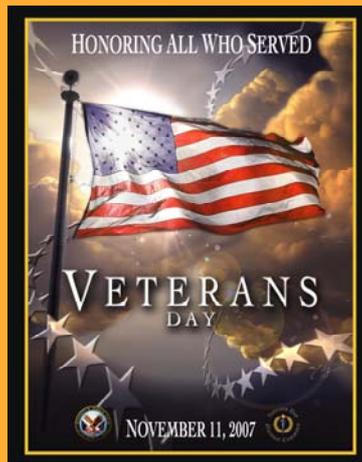
Veterans Day originated in the Armistice Day, that ended the First World War and honor the veterans. After the Second World War, in 1954, the Congress changed the holiday's name in "Veterans Day", a day to honor the American veterans of all wars.

On October 8, 1954, the President Dwight D. Eisenhower issued the "First Veterans Day Proclamation", which stated:

"**Whereas** it has long been our customs to commemorate November 11, the anniversary of the ending of World War I, by paying tribute to the heroes of that tragic struggle and by rededicating ourselves to the cause of peace; and

Whereas in the intervening years the United States has been involved in two other great military conflicts, which have added millions of veterans living and dead to the honor rolls of this Nation; and

Whereas the Congress passed a concurrent resolution on June 4, 1926 (44 Stat. 1982), calling for the observance of November 11 with appropriate ceremonies, and later provided in an act ap-



proved May 13, 1938 (52 Stat. 351), that the eleventh of November should be a legal holiday and should be known as Armistice Day; and

Whereas, in order to expand the significance of that commemoration and in order that a grateful Nation might pay appropriate homage to the veterans of all its wars who have contributed so much to the preservation of this Nation, the Congress, by an act approved June 1, 1954 (68 Stat. 168), changed the

name of the holiday to Veterans Day:

Now, Therefore, I, Dwight D. Eisenhower, President of the United States of America, do hereby call upon all of our citizens to observe Thursday, November 11, 1954, as Veterans Day. On that day let us solemnly remember the sacrifices of all those who fought so valiantly, on the seas, in the air, and on foreign shores, to preserve our heritage of freedom, and let us reconsecrate ourselves to the task of promoting an enduring peace so that their efforts shall not have been in vain [...]."

For the complete text of the Proclamation, see: <http://www1.va.gov/opa/vetsday/vetdayhistory.asp> (U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs).

Source:

1. <http://www1.va.gov/opa/vetsday/vetdayhistory.asp> (site of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs)
2. http://usinfo.state.gov/scv/life_and_culture/holidays/veterans_day.html (site of the U.S. Department of State)
3. www.military.com (site of Military.com, a military and veteran organization)

American Education Week

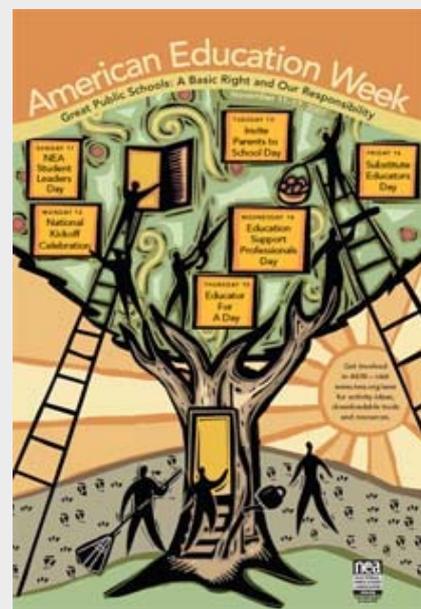
One of the creators and original sponsors of American Education Week was The National Education Association (NEA). In 1919, representatives of the NEA and the American Legion met to find ways for generating public support for education, considering the fact that 25 percent of the country's World War draftees were illiterate and 9 percent were physically unfit.

The first American Education Week, December 4-10, 1921, gathered the NEA and American Legion as cosponsors.

American Education Week is always celebrated the week prior to the week of Thanksgiving.

This year's theme of American Education Week (November, 11-17), "Great Public Schools: A Basic Right and Our Responsibility", emphasize the importance of providing a quality public education for every child in America.

Source: www.nea.org (site of The National Education Association)



Sugar Blue & Band Concert



Grammy Award-winning blues harmonica player Sugar Blue (born James Whiting in 1950) will perform on November 29, 2007, at Diesel Club, in Cluj-Napoca. The concert is part of the musician's Balkan Tour.

Best known for his work with the Rolling Stones, Sugar Blue began his career as a street musician. He made his first recordings in 1975 with Brownie McGhee and Roosevelt Sykes. He performed and recorded

afterwards with classic artists like Muddy Waters, B. B. King, Art Blakey, Lionel Hampton, Willie Dixon, Stan Getz, Frank Zappa, Bob Dylan. In 1985, he received the Grammy Award for his Atlantic album, "Blues Explosion", recorded live at the Montreux Jazz Festival.

Source: local press, <http://www.sugar-blue.com> (Sugar Blue web site)

"...Sugar Blue has been called the Jimi Hendrix or the Charlie Parker of the of the harmonica, both appropriate names for the revolutionary and eclectic blues harpist".

Source: www.sugar-blue.com

"I have said it before, and gladly say it again now – the U.S. has no better friend than

Romania. This friendship continues to deepen".

U.S. Ambassador NICHOLAS F. TAUBMAN at the event concluding the USA's development assistance program to Romania, October 9, 2007

Important events U.S. - Romania

- On October 5, 2007, at Mihai Kogalniceanu Airbase in Romania, the exercise "Proof of Principle" put together soldiers of Southern European Task Force (Airborne) and Romanian soldiers from the 60th Airborne Battalion in joint airborne operations. The jump, executed from two aircrafts C130 Hercules at 300 meters, was prepared with a review of the required safety procedures, exit procedures, review of malfunctions, entanglements, successful landing.

- The USAID Mission to Romania was closed. Through USAID, the American people have provided since 1990 over \$ 600 million for bilateral development assistance. The closeout reception, on October 9, 2007, celebrated the Roma-

nian successes that were achieved during the years of partnership with American experts in order to create a market based economy and a democratic society.

- In a discourse sustained at National Defense University on October 23, 2007, the American President George W. Bush said that the Iranian officials declared that they are developing missiles with a range of 1,200 miles, which implies the capability to strike many NATO allies, including Romania; furthermore, with foreign assistance Iran could develop an intercontinental ballistic missile that could reach U.S. and all Europe before 2015. As now it doesn't exist a way to defend Europe against the Iranian threat, a missile defense system must be created here, not designed to de-

fend an attack from Russia, but to protect Europe from Iran.

- The U.S. Ambassador to Romania, Nicholas F. Taubman, met with the Romanian Prosecutor-General Laura Kovesi, on November 7, 2007, at the Ambassador's request. The two officials discussed about bilateral cooperation, one of the important points of discussion being the impact that the recent proposed amendments by the Chamber of Deputies to the Criminal Code and Criminal Procedure Code could have on the Romanian judicial system, the U.S. Ambassador remarking that the amendments, as many international experts have observed, if enacted in law, would represent a setback in Romania's efforts to fight corruption and organized crime.

This month in the U.S. history

Births

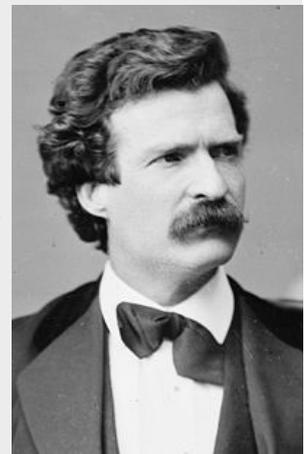
November 1 (1871): **Stephen Crane**, author
 November 8 (1902): **Margaret Munnerlyn Mitchell**, author, winner of Pulitzer Prize
 November 9 (1934): **Carl Edward Sagan**, astronomer
 November 11 (1922): **Kurt Vonnegut, Jr.**, novelist
 November 11 (1974): **Leonardo DiCaprio**, actor
 November 14 (1954): **Condoleezza Rice**, the 66th Secretary

of State

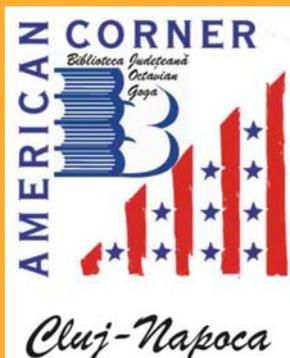
November 15 (1887): **Georgia Totti O'Keeffe**, artist
 November 17 (1942): **Martin Marcantonio Luciano Scorsese**, Oscar winner film director, writer and producer
 November 27 (1942): **Jimmy Hendrix**, guitarist, singer, songwriter
 November 30 (1835): **Mark Twain** (Samuel Langhorne Clemens), humorist, satirist, writer

Events

November 6 (1860): Abraham Lincoln was elected president of the United States
 November 17 (1800): Congress met for the first time, in Washington, DC
 November 22 (1963): President John F. Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas
 November 26 (1789): President George Washington proclaimed the first national Thanksgiving Day in the U.S.



Mark Twain 1871 photo portrait (Source: Wikipedia)



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Opening hours: Monday: 13.00-20.00, Tuesday-Friday: 9.00-20.00

Saturday: 9.00-16.00, Sunday: closed

We're on the web!
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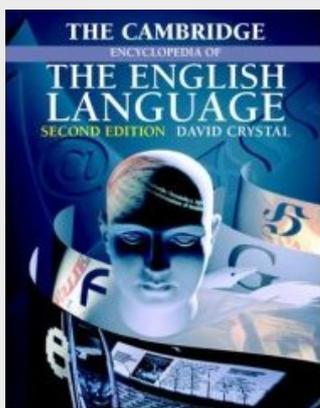


American Corner Cluj-Napoca is a result of a partnership between U.S. Embassy at Bucharest and "Octavian Goga" Cluj County Library. Opened in December 2006, the American Corner is an information and resource center for the public of all ages interested in U.S. life and culture.

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The redaction team: Georgeta Dodu, Ema Tudor, Aura Câmpan.

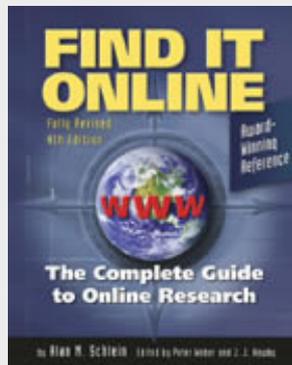
American Corner Cluj-Napoca Collection



Crystal, David. **The Cambridge Encyclopedia of the English Language.**-Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2005

"The Cambridge Encyclopedia of the English Language" is a reference book for all the people interested in language matters due to its vast content, beginning with the history of English, continuing with English vocabulary, English grammar, spoken and written English, information about using English, learning about English and ending with appendices helpful for further research. This second edition of The Cambridge Ency-

clopedia of the English Language is revised for a new generation of language-lovers. It includes new material on world English and Internet English, completely updated statistics, 44 new illustrations and extensive additional material. The author, David Crystal, received in 1995 an Order of British Empire for his services to the English language.



Schlein, Alan M. **Find It Online: The Complete Guide to Online Research.**-Tempe: Facts on Demand Press, 2006

This 4th edition is a fully revised version of the award winning reference book first published in 1994. Schlein's updates reflect the changes in the online research in the

last 12 years. His book is both a basic manual for online research and an annotated list of the most valuable web sites for fact finding and Internet investigation. The "deep web" is made of millions of pages of information that aren't turned up with a routine search engine query. Schlein explains which search engines are the best for which question, how to limit the responses to those that are most likely to be valuable to you. The first five chapters describe creative uses of the Internet, the Internet terminology and concepts, the search strategy, general search tools and specialized tools. The next chapters speak about U.S. and international Government resources, public records, online news resources, business tools and resources, how to manage and filter the information, how to evaluate accuracy, credibility and authority. Chapter 13 offers search strategies and sample searches, ways to identify high-potential resources, vendors and free stuff. The last chapter is about privacy and protection online. The guide also contains online vendors indices and a glossary of web terms and definitions.